

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6539

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, GR

SUBJECT: SPECIAL IV PROJECT - GREEK PARLIAMENTARIANS

REFS: (A) STATE 166006 (B) ATHENS 6891

1. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: WE HAVE NOW COMPLETED THE ORGANIZATION OF A FIVE-MEMBER GROUP OF GREEK PARLIAMENTARIANS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES UNDER OUR SPECIAL GREEK PARLIAMENTARIAN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROJECT FOR A THREE-WEEK PROGRAM BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 20. THE NAMES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WITH BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC NOTES ARE GIVEN BELOW. WE SELECTED THESE FIVE DEPUTIES FOLLOWING INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT, CONSTANTINE PAPACONSTANTINOU, AND, WITH RESPECT TO THE MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY, WITH UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER LEADER GEORGE MAVROS.

2. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE FROM EARLIER CONVERSATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN AMBASSADOR KUBISCH AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON, WE CONCEIVED OF THIS PROJECT AS A DEMONSTRATION OF U.S. APPROBATION AND SUPPORT FOR THE RETURN OF DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT TO GREECE. WE ALSO SAW VALUE IN CARRYING OUT THIS PROJECT DURING OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR. WE HAVE EXPLAINED THE PROJECT ON THE ABOVE BASIS TO GREEK GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE GREEK PARTICIPANTS IN IT AND  
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THEY HAVE REACTED WITH PLEASURE AND GRATIFICATION TO IT.

3. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE AND THE SPECIAL CHARACTER OF THIS GROUP VISIT, WE WOULD HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE VISITOR PROGRAM SERVICES, IN CONSULTATION WITH CU/WE AND EUR/SE (JOHN DAY WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS) TO DEVELOP THE PROGRAM FOR THIS GROUP IN ADVANCE AND SEND IT TO US, AT LEAST IN GENERAL OUTLINE, SO THAT WE MAY CONSULT WITH THE GROUP AND BRIEF THEM ON THE PROGRAM BEFORE THEY DEPART ATHENS. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE CU/WE OFFICER RESPONSIBLE, TOGETHER WITH THE ASSIGNED ESCORT/INTERPRETER FOR THE GROUP, CAN MEET WITH ITS MEMBERS SOON AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON TO BRIEF THEM ON AND DISCUSS THEIR PROGRAM WITH THEM. WE STRONGLY URGE THAT THE PROGRAM BE HANDLED IN THIS WAY RATHER THAN HAVE THE GROUP OR MEMBERS OF THE GROUP MEET WITH THE VISITOR PROGRAM SERVICE FOR DISCUSSION OF THE PROGRAM ON SEPTEMBER 20.

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4. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN INVITED AND HAVE ACCEPTED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR SPECIAL IV PROGRAM FOR GREEK PARLIAMENTARIANS: DIMITRIOS PAPASPYROU, WHO WILL ACT AS GROUP LEADER; MRS. LINA KOUTIFARI, AND MICHAEL GALENIANOS (ALL THREE FROM THE NEW DEMOCRACY MAJORITY PARTY; AND COSTIS GIATRAKOS AND SOTIRIS PAPAPOLITIS (BOTH OF THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTY, THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER). NAME CHECKS ON ALL OF THE ABOVE WERE NEGATIVE.

5. WE HAVE ADVISED MEMBERS OF THE GROUP THAT WE ARE PLANNING FOR THEIR PROGRAM TO BEGIN IN WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 20. WE WILL, THEREFORE, ARRANGE FOR THEIR DEPARTURE FROM ATHENS FOR THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 18 OR 19, WHICH IS AGREEABLE TO THEM. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP ARE AT PRESENT OUT OF ATHENS BUT WE WILL BE SENDING FIRM TRAVEL PLANS AND ARRIVAL DATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD IN ANY CASE PLAN ON THEIR ARRIVING THE WEEKEND OF THE 18TH.

6. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE GROUP  
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IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. DIMITRIOS PAPASPYROU. BORN IN 1902. MEMBER OF THE GREEK PARLIAMENT SINCE 1950; MINISTER OF JUSTICE 1951, 1963 AND 1965; MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT 1964; MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE 1974; PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT 1965, 1966-67 (HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT AT THE TIME OF THE APRIL 21, 1967 COUP); OPPOSED TO THE JUNTA FOR WHICH

HE WAS PERSECUTED BY IT. MR. PAPASPYROU WAS INVITED TO THE U.S. BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON EUROPE OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO TESTIFY ABOUT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN GREECE IN 1972.

B. LINA KOUTIFARI. BORN IN 1921. MEDICAL DOCTOR (UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS AND NEW YORK UNIVERSITY); ASSOCIATED WITH DR. PAPANICOLAOU (PAP SMEAR). AT THE REQUEST OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, MRS. KOUTIFARI RAN FOR PARLIAMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE 1974 ELECTIONS.

C. MICHAEL GALENIANOS. BORN 1945 IN CRETE. STUDIED LAW AND ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS AND RECEIVED A DOCTORATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF STRASBOURG, FRANCE. LAWYER BY PROFESSION. ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NOVEMBER 1974.

D. COSTIS GIATRAKOS. BORN IN 1936. STUDIED ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS, HOWARD UNIVIERSTY AND M.I.T. ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NOVEMBER 1974.

E. SOTIRIS PAPAPOLITIS. BORN IN 1941. STUDIED LAW AND ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF ATHENS AND TORONTO, CANADA. LAWYER BY PROFESSION. ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NOVEMBER 1974.

6. WITH THE EXEPTION OF MR. PAPASPYROU, ALL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP SPEAK ENGLISH (FAIR TO VERY GOOD). WE RECOMMEND THAT AN ESCORT/INTERPRETER BE ASSIGNED TO THE GROUP. IF HE IS AVAILABLE, WE WOULD HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR DANIEL BREWSTER TO TAKE ON THIS ASSIGNMENT.

7. PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS: WE BELIEVE THE GROUP SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPEND THE FIRST WEEK TO TEN DAYS IN WASHINGTON FOR CONTACTS WITH THE CONGRESS AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. ON THE HILL, WE RECOMMEND CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, AND MEETINGS WITH THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (CHAIRMAN MORGAN RENEWED HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH MR. PAPASPYROU WHEN HE WAS HERE WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE IN JANUARY) AND THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AS WELL AS WITH INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS, SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES. WE WOULD HOPE ONE OF THE OFFICERS OF CONGRESS OR ONE OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN WOULD HOST A RECEPTION, LUNCH OR DINNER IN THE GROUP'S HONOR. IN ADDITION TO THE CONGRESS, THE GROUP SHOULD HAVE CONTACT WITH OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND, IF IT IS POSSIBLE AND CAN BE ARRANGED, A CALL ON THE PRESIDENT AT THE WHITE HOUSE. WE WOULD HOPE A

SENIOR DEPARTMENTAL OFFICER WOULD HOST A SOCIAL AFFAIR IN  
THE GROUP'S HONOR.

8. FOLLOWING THIS INITIAL STAY IN WASHINGTON, WE WOULD  
SUGGEST THAT THE GROUP TRAVEL TO PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK,  
BOSTON, SAN FRANCISCO AND NEW ORLEANS FOR THE REMAINING TWO  
WEEKS OF THE PROGRAM. WE WOULD HOPE THAT AT EACH OF THESE  
CITIES MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WOULD BE WELCOMED BY THE LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH CIVIC  
GROUPS AND LEADERS, VISIT UNIVERSITIES AND ALSO MEET  
WITH THE GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES THERE.

9. WE HAVE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED THE DEPARTMENT'S  
UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONSIVENESS TO THIS IMPORTANT  
PROJECT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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